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Augmented Advocacy: The Transformative Role of Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Profession

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has evolved from a speculative concept into a powerful instrument reshaping legal practice across jurisdictions. Generative AI, Large Language Models (LLMs), Natural Language Processing (NLP), machine learning system and predictive AI are increasingly shaping litigation strategy, legal research, contract review, risk assessment and access to justice.¹ This article offers a critical examination of how AI is transforming the legal profession, with a particular focus on common law jurisdictions and the legal environment of Pakistan.

While AI promises efficiency, accuracy and scalability, its adoption also raises serious questions about ethical responsibility, data privacy, explanatory, regularity compliance and professional liability. Across the globe, governance frameworks are already emerging, such as, The EU's Artificial Intelligence Act (2024), the UK pro-innovation regulatory approach (2024), the Untied State's Executive Order on Safe AI, and American Bar Association's updated Model Rules Guidance (2024). In Pakistan, Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication introduced "The National Artificial Intelligence Policy (2022) signals political will but detailed ethical safeguards remain under developed.

This article argues that AI will not replace lawyers, rather, it will fundamentally redefine their roles. Legal professionals will shift away from routine tasks towards high value advocacy, strategic decision making, ethical supervisions, client counseling and socio legal judgement. New roles will emerge, legal technologists, AI-governance, predictive analytics consultants and technically skilled professionals. For Pakistan, strategic adoption of AI in courts, legal aid organizations, law firms and public institutions presents a real opportunity to narrow the justice gap. Lawyers who resist learning AI and refuse to adapt risk becoming outdated, as routine and analytical tasks increasingly rely on technology. In contrast, young lawyers skilled in AI, predictive analytics and digital tools will lead the profession, commanding higher demand and influence in modern legal practice.

Finally, the article outlines a multi-layered roadmap for lawyers, judges, educators, regulators and policy makers to integrate AI responsibly, safeguarding human dignity, fairness, empathy and jurisprudential standards.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Predictive (AI), Predictive Legal Analytics, Legal Profession, Large Language Models (LLMs), Natural Language Processing (NLP), Judicial Decision Making, Algorithmic Governance, Digital Transformation of Courts, AI Regulation, Ethical Use of AI by Lawyers, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Judicial Automation, Legal Ethics and Technology, High Risk AI System, Access to Justice, Legal-Tech in Pakistan

1. Introduction

The legal profession has long been founded on human reasoning, the interpretation of precedents, structured argumentation and an ethical obligation to clients and society. Lawyers historically act as mediators between complex legal system and the public, providing counselling and expertise, advocacy and protection of rights. The basic function of a lawyer is always to represent his client and protect his interest. In recent years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has begun to shift these foundations in ways previously unimaginable. Tools that once offered simple keyword search capabilities are now capable of drafting legal documents, sequence of arguments, relevance of case laws, identifying patterns in judge's behavior, supporting litigation strategy and even predicting outcomes.

This transformation is not purely technological but deeply conceptual. Lawyers, law firms and legal institutions are evolving from traditional knowledge workers into partners who collaborate with intelligent system. The capacity of AI to reason, generate text, analyze data and forecast trends represents a paradigm shift in how legal expertise is produced, delivered and consumed.

Legal practitioners in Pakistan, particularly those engaged in criminal justice, constitutional law and academia, are facing a major shift due to increasing role of AI in administration of justice. The risk lies in whether the adoption of AI might compromise fairness, due process or constitutional safeguards. The potential of AI is in reducing backlogs, making justice more accessible and allowing lawyers to focus on important high value work.

This article maps out that transformation through five key dimensions:

- i. The functional domains where AI is already reshaping legal work.
- ii. The new roles of skill-sets emerging in an AI-enabled profession.
- iii. The ethical, regulatory and systematic changes.
- iv. The specific implications for Pakistan and comparable jurisdictions.
- v. A roadmap and future vision for integrating AI responsibly in law,

2. Functional Domains of AI in legal Practice.

2.1 Legal Research and Information Retrieval

One of the most tangible ways AI is changing legal practice is in research. Traditional legal research involves poring over law reports, statutes, commentary and precedents and carrying reference books to courtrooms is a time consuming and cognitively demanding task. AI-powered system, particularly LLMs and NLP

tools can now read, summarize, extract and compare legal texts across huge volume of data. These tools help identify key legal issues, high relevant statutes and suggest judicial reasoning patterns.²

Beyond summarization, predictive AI can supplement research by flagging possible outcomes. For instance, by analyzing prior cases, it can suggest which arguments are more likely to succeed or which precedents a court is more likely to consider. This predictive insight helps lawyers tailor their research more strategically focusing on high-probability scenario.

Al-enabled research tools generate significance efficiency gains but they do not eliminate the need for human oversight. All may hallucinate generating citations that are incorrect or even fictitious. Without careful supervision, lawyers risk relying on flawed outputs, a danger that has materialized in another jurisdiction.³ Thus, while Al transforms research, human verification remains indispensable.

2.2 Drafting, Contract Review and Due Diligence

Drafting forms a large share of legal transactional work: contracts, memos, pleadings and regulatory documents. Generative AI now assists in producing first drafts, automating contract review, extracting clauses and appointing out risk provisions. Machine learning system can learn from existing contracts to suggests negotiation pathways or flag problematic clauses. Predictive AI adds another layer, when reviewing a contract, predictive models can estimate potential litigation risk, forecast breach outcomes or simulate future dispute scenarios. This allows lawyers not to draft, but proactively manage contractual risk based on data driven insights.

The adoption of theses tools does not render junior associates obsolete. Instead, their role shifts from data entry and routine drafting to supervising AI output, ensuring contextual relevance, client alignment, compliance and ethical standards. Lawyers remain responsible for all final output and must cross check AI generated drafts rigorously to maintain legal and professional integrity.

2.3 Litigation Strategy, Predictive Analytics and Risk Assessment

One of the most powerful applications of AI in litigation is predictive analytics. Predictive AI models analyze vast datasets of prior judicial decisions, filings, motions, settlements and even judge specific behavior to forecast the likelihood of case outcomes, estimate timelines and recommended strategic moves. Lawyers can use predictive AI to inform whether a case should be litigated, settled or referred to alternative dispute resolution. By simulating scenarios such as different arguments lines or settlement offers. Law firms can counsel clients of risk-based strategies grounded in data not mere intuition.

Predictive tools may also aid in case triage and resource allocation. For instance, a high predictive-risk may justify early resort to expert evidence, while a low probability case may be managed more conservatively. These tools can enhance decision making efficiency in law firms, legal departments and even public interest or pro-bono practices. However, predictive AI is probabilistic not deterministic. Its forecasts are inherently uncertain and must be interpreted carefully. Human judgement, the ability to weight non-quantifiable factors, assess client values and make moral decisions, remain critical. Predictive systems must operate under human supervisions and their recommendations should never replace normative legal reasoning.

Moreover, the use of predictive AI in judicial settings raises important constitutional and ethical questions. If courts rely too heavily on predictive models to guide rulings, there may be a risk of compromising

judicial discretion, fairness and individual justice. Courts must ensure that predictive AI supports, rather than supplants, judicial decision making.

2.4 Access to Justice and Legal Services Transformation

One of the most social significances of AI is its potential to expand access to justice. In many developing jurisdictions, including Pakistan, legal resources are scarce and many individuals cannot afford representation or lack access to qualified lawyers. AI-powered platforms can mitigate this gap. Chatbots enabled by AI can provide preliminary legal guidance, explain procedural rights and answer common legal questions in simple language. Automated system can generate basic legal documents e.g. power of attorney, wills, tenancy agreements. AI portals in local languages can explain legal concepts clearly making law more accessible. A practical example is seen in Pakistan where many litigants now use AI tools like ChatGPT to verify the legal advice receive from clerks, agents and even lawyers.⁴ In 2024-25 a survey in Lahore and Karachi reported that people often brought AI generated explanations of bail, maintenance and tenancy issues to confirm whether the advice given to them was correct. This trend shows that AI is already helping individuals understand their rights and avoid misinformation.

Predictive AI can also support lawyers in representing their clients more effectively. By analyzing case data, AI can highlight matters to escalate or clients facing higher risks, enabling lawyers to plan stronger strategies. It can instantly collect information from websites, newspapers, official records, cross jurisdictional precedents and international best practices, giving lawyers quick and accurate insights to strengthen their arguments.

However, this transformation must be managed carefully. Unsupervised AI advice engages serious risk. Incomplete or misleading legal guidance could adversely affect the vulnerable users. Therefore, any AI-powered legal advice must be verified human counseling.

3. Evolving professional Roles & Skills-Sets

3.1 The Rise of Augmented Lawer

With AI taking over routine tasks, the lawyer's role is morphing. The future lawyer is not just knowledge worker but a collaborator with machines, an "augmented lawyer." Rather than solely generating legal content by hand or by typing on computer, the lawyer oversees, edits and refines AI outputs, ensuring they satisfy professional, ethical and client specific standards. This new role requires hybrid competence; legal reasoning paired with technical understanding. Lawyers must know not just how to use AI, but how AI works, its architecture, training data, possible bias, limitations and error modes.

Lawyers must act as supervisors, they assess whether AI outputs align with jurisprudential values, constitutional norms, statutory relevance, case laws cited, legal background, averments made, grounds taken, relief prayed and client's interests, they assess whether AI generated drafts are acceptable, when they need substantial revision and when and what can be used and should be discarded.

3.2 Emphasis of Judgement, Advocacy and Human Insight

As AI becomes more advanced, the qualities that belong to human lawyers, judgement, empathy and advocacy become even more valuable. Lawyers will increasingly rely on these strengths when interpreting

unclear legal provisions, guiding clints through difficult and emotional situations, building arguments rooted in real human experience and conducting negotiations or mediations with sensitivity. This shift is clearly reflected in a case "Ishfaq Ahmad v. Mushtaq Ahmad" (PLD 2025 SC 367) a judgement by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, where he noted that although Al can analyze data and detect legal patterns, it cannot feel compassion, make ethical choices or understand human suffering in the way a person can. The author went on saying that Al should be welcomed as an aid to enhance efficiency in the legal system but must never substitute human judicial discretion ort the judge's independent judgement. In essence, Al may expand a lawyer's capacity, but the human mind and conscience still give the law its moral direction.

3.3 Emerging Roles in the AU-Driven Legal Profession

As AI now increasingly connected to legal practice, lawyers are taking on new and evolving roles that blend legal expertise with technological awareness. Modern lawyers increasingly act as legal technologists by learning how to use and supervise AI tools that streamline research, drafting and case preparation. They also step into AI governance functions, ensuring that automated systems remain transparent, unbiased and ethically compliant. Many lawyers now adopt legal operations responsibilities, using AI to manage data, automate routine tasks and improve work flow efficiency within their offices. Future lawyers will also engage with predictive analytics tools that help forecast litigation outcomes and guide strategic decisions. Together, these emerging roles enable lawyers to work faster, make better decisions and deliver more accessible legal services while maintaining human judgement at the center of the profession.

The rise of AI in legal practice is creating several new professional roles that directly support and enhance the work of lawyers. Legal technologies now help design, integrate and maintain AI tools within everyday legal workflows. AI governance specialists audit these systems, check for bias, ensure transparency and keep AI use aligned with ethical and regulatory standards. Legal professionals manage data flows, automation processes, risk frameworks and technology vendor relationships. In addition, predictive analytics consultants use AI to forecast litigation outcomes, assess risks and provide strategic, data-based guidance to legal teams.

3.4 Continuous Learning and Professional Adaptation

As AI continues to evolve, lawyers must adopt a mindset of continuous learning so they can confidently operate new AI-driven environment described above. This requires more than keeping up with case law. Lawyers now need to understand emerging AI-governance frameworks, appreciate how data-ethics and privacy laws apply to digital tools and develop the ability to audit and evaluate AI generated outputs. They must also learn basic design thinking so they can contribute to building ethical and responsible legal tech-solutions. To support this shift, legal education needs to change as well. Law schools and bar councils should introduce courses on AI and law, data ethics, algorithmic accountability and legal innovation, while providing hands on labs where students can work directly with AI tools, generate drafts, critique automated outputs and practice designing governance policies. This continuous learning will prepare both current and future lawyers to thrive in the evolving roles created by AI.

4. Ethical, Regulatory and Systematic Challenges

While AI offers significant potential for legal system in Pakistan, it brings important ethical and professional risks. Generative AI can produce plausible but false outputs, so lawyers must verify all AI generated advice or documents, maintaining ultimate accountability. Bias in historical data can reproduce discrimination in bail, sentencing or risk assessments, making transparency and explainability essential. Lawyers also face confidentiality and data privacy concerns, especially with cloud-based tools, requiring informed client consent, secure platforms and robust governance. Globally, regulations like the EU AI Act, UK pro-innovation rules and US executive guidance provide frameworks for accountability, which Pakistan must adopt to ensure fairness and oversight. In Pakistan, initiatives like the Legal Aid Society's NAZ assist chatbot allow citizens to receive preliminary legal guidance in multiple languages with verification by human lawyers, while platforms like Lawgpt.pk help lawyers quickly research case law and draft documents according to Pakistani law, illustrating how AI can expand access to justice responsibly.

Al also reshape liability, professional insurance, and workforce dynamics. Responsibility for Al-assisted errors must be clearly defined and insurers may require verification protocols and governance policies. Junior lawyers may spend less time on routine tasks and more on supervising AI, strategic thinking and client advocacy. While legal education must safeguard foundational skills in reasoning, ethics and argumentation. Over reliance on AI, unequal adoption and weak oversight risk de-skilling, inequality and opaque decision making. Strong governance, training and inclusive access are essential to ensure AI strengthen the justice system rather than undermines it.

5. Implication for Pakistan and Comparable Jurisdictions

5.1 Opportunity: Narrowing the Justice Gap

Justice system in Pakistan faces chronic backlog, limited legal aid and uneven access to justice, leaving many citizens without remediless. Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers a promising avenue to bridge this gap. Aldriven platforms can assist in drafting complaints, provide legal advice in Urdu, English and regional languages, generate litigation documents and deliver remote advisory services. Predictive analytics can help legal aid organization triage cases efficiently ensuring that scarce resources are used where they are needed most.

Courts can also harness AI to enhance case management. Predictive models can forecast court room workloads; AI scheduling assistant can optimize hearing times and triage system can flag urgent cases for priority attention. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has recognized this potential, explicitly endorsing AI as a tool to address systematic delays and operational inefficiencies with the judiciary.⁵

5.2 Local Challenges: Infrastructure, Digitalization and Legal Culture

Despite its promise, AI adoption in Pakistan faces significant hurdles. Digitization of case law and judgement remains incomplete, particularly at the district court level, limiting the datasets needed for effective AI tools. Courts still rely on manual files and paper-based workflows, while technological readiness among judges and court staff varies widely. Some practitioners worry that AI could undermine human judgement or foster dependency, limiting trust in these tools.⁶ Strengthening data governance is essential, including secure

storage, anonymization of personal information and ethical frameworks for AI use. Without these foundational reforms, AI may remain underutilized and its benefit unrealized.

5.3 Reforming Legal Education and Professional Training

To prepare the next generation of lawyers, law schools in Pakistan should integrate courses on AI and Law, data ethics, predictive analytics and legal innovation. These courses must not be token offerings but core components of legal curricula. Bar associations and continuing legal education programs should mandate training modules on AI governance, algorithmic bias and oversight mechanism. Partnership with technology firms, legal-tech startups, and academic institutions could result in practical labs, internships and real world projects where law students and practitioners test and co-design AI solutions for legal sector.

5.4 Regulatory and Institutional Reforms

While the National Artificial Intelligence Policy (2022) signals Pakistan's commitment to digital innovation, legal specific regulation is still limited. There is an urgent need for guidelines tailored to AI use in courts and legal practice.

The Supreme Court in its landmark ruling has called for regulated AI role in courts and suggested comprehensive frameworks coverings permitted AI systems, human verification requirements, data privacy protections, auditing and accountability mechanism, certification of AI vendors and recourse for litigants if AI assisted processes produce errors. The court emphasized that AI must remain a facilitative tool supporting judicial work without compromising independence, human dignity and the constitutional promise of fairness. (The News April 11, 2025) (DAWN November, 16, 2025)

These guidelines should include:

- 1) Clarity on which AI system are permitted (e.g. generative, predictive)
- 2) Human verification requirements
- 3) Audit and accountability mechanism
- 4) Certification or validation of AI vendors
- 5) Recourse for litigants if AI assisted process produce errors or unfairness

6. Roadmap and Recommendations

6.1 Strengthening Governance, Security and Responsible Use

A realistic roadmap for Pakistan's legal sector begins with treating AI as a partner that enhances human judgement rather than a competitor to replace it. Law firms, courts and public bodies should pilot AI tools to support research, drafting, case preparation and argument development, while maintaining full human control over final decisions. To ensure responsible use, institutions must establish strong internal governance protocols. These should include limiting the input of sensitive data, enforcing mandatory human review of AI generated work, documenting all AI usage and relying only on secure, encrypted platforms that guarantee data isolation.

Risk assessment procedures are equally important. Legal institutions should develop clear criteria for determining when predictive or generative AI can be used, what level of supervision is necessary and how to address potential errors. This structured approach helps integrate AI into legal workflows without compromising ethical standards, confidentiality or professional responsibility.

6.2 Reforming Legal Education and Professional Training

Preparing the legal community for AI-driven practice requires a major shift in education and training. Law schools should integrate AI law modules into undergraduate and post graduate curricula, focusing on both the capabilities and limitation of emerging technologies. Practical components, such as simulations, labs and detailed case studies can help students evaluate AI generated content, identify bias and design ethical frameworks for legal work.

For practicing lawyers, bar councils and training institutions should introduce mandatory AI literacy courses as part of continuing legal education. These training should cover issues such as algorithmic bias, model verification, data security and responsible use standards. By building capacity across generations of legal professionals, Pakistan can ensure that its legal workforce remains competent, confidant and ethically grounded in the age of augmented advocacy.

6.3 AI Regulation and Public Justice Tools

Pakistan requires clear regulatory and ethical standards to guide the use of AI in courts and legal practice. The National Judicial (Policy Making) committee and the Law and Justice Commission should finalize the guidelines recommended by Supreme Court in its 2025 judgement. The Editorial commented on the judgement passed by the Supreme Court Justices Aqeel Aahmad Abbasi and Mansoor Ali Shah on the use of AI in the judiciary. In their judgement, the honourable justices have reasoned that AI ought to be "welcomed with careful optimism" as a solution to many issues plaguing the Pakistan judiciary. These guidelines should define permitted AI uses, mandate human verification, require disclosure of AI involvement in legal processes and certify trusted AI vendors. Dedicated oversight bodies must then audit AI systems used in courts and legal institutions to ensure fairness, transparency and accountability.

Side by side, AI should be used to expand access to justice, public facing tools, such as chatbots, document automation platforms and multilingual legal guidance portals those can support citizens who cannot afford traditional legal services. Collaboration with NGOs and legal aid organizations will help pilot these solutions in underserved communities.

6.4 Enhancing Trust, Transparency and Liability Frameworks

Long term adoption of AI in the legal sector requires strong public trust. Courts and law firms should communicate openly about how AI is used, what decisions remain with humans and how litigants and clients can challenge AI assisted outputs. Feedback and grievance handling mechanism must be established so users can report inaccuracies or unfair outcomes. Policy making should follow a participatory approach, involving civil society, technologists, academics and legal professionals in shaping governance models.

Liability and insurance system must also adopt to AI enabled risks. Clear rules are needed to determine whether responsibility for errors lies with the lawyer, the institution or the Ai vendor. Insurance companies should develop new professional liability products that cover AI assisted mistakes. Proper documentation of AI usage across legal workflows will make risk exposure traceable, manageable and insurable; ensuring that the legal system remains accountable while embracing technological innovation.

7. Future Outlook, Legal Practice in 2030

7.1 Scenario A-Hybrid Advocacy Model

By 2030, legal practice will operate through fully integrated human-AI collaboration. Lawyers will routinely work with AI co-counsel capable of handling research, drafting, citation verification, precedent comparison, argument development, legal analysis, jurisprudential justification, constitutional interpretation, statutory requirements and predictive modeling with high accuracy and speed. AI system will prepare first draft petitions, written arguments, briefs and case synopses while automatically inserting valid citations from authenticated database. Lawyer will review, refine and apply professional judgement ensuring that the moral, constitutional and contextual aspects remain firmly human led.

Al tools will also analyze judicial trends and evaluate court decisions across jurisdictions, highlighting inconsistencies, deviation from precedent and potential grounds for review. This will allow advocates to build sharper, evidence-based strategies. During advocacy, Al-powered dashboards may assist lawyers in real time, providing instant access to case laws, cross-examination cues ad statutory interpretations.

These changes will not replace courtroom advocacy; instead, they will elevate it. Lawyers will spend less time on mechanical drafting and more on strategy, persuasion ethics and client engagement. Advocacy in 2023 will thus become more data informed, precise and efficient combining human judgement with the analytical power of AI to deliver high quality legal representation.

7.2 Scenario B- Al-integrated Corporate Legal Departments

By 2023, corporate legal department will operate through advanced AI-enabled infrastructure. In-house counsel will use predictive dashboards to assess litigation risk, monitor regulatory compliance, evaluate contractual exposure and manage complex transactions in real time. AI system will prepare draft contract, compliance reports due diligence summaries and risk assessment memos, while automatically verifying citation, statutory requirements and regulatory references. Legal operations specialists and data analysts will maintain and calibrate these systems but strategic decision making will remain human led. Lawyers will interpret AI insights, assess contextual business realities and exercise professional judgement to guide corporate policy, negotiations and dispute resolution.

7.3 Scenario C- Al-Enabled Access to Justice

By, 2023, AI will significantly expand access to justice across Pakistan, particularly in rural and underserved regions. AI-driven legal clinics, supported by multilingual chatbots, document automation tools and predictive triage system will help citizens prepare basic legal documents, understand their rights and navigate common disputes at minimal costs. Courts will adopt AI for docket management, case categorization, scheduling and workflow optimization, enabling faster and more transparent case handling. However, adjudication and judicial discretion will remain strictly human preserving constitutional legitimacy and due process guarantees,

8. Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence in no longer a futuristic novelty, it is already retransforming legal practice. Core insight is clear, AI will not replace lawyers, instead, lawyers who understand, govern and collaborate with AI will

replace those who do not. In Pakistan, the leadership shown by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah provides a powerful model. His judgement affirms that Al must be welcomed with "careful optimism." But must never become a substitute for human decision making.

The challenge ahead is not merely technical but deeply normative, to integrate AI into legal system without compromising justice, dignity and constitutional values. For advocates, academicians, judges and policy makers, this is moment of opportunity to shape how AI supports, rather than supplants the moral heart of law. By adopting an augmentation mindset, building robust governance frameworks, reforming legal education and centering human values, legal profession can harness AI to deliver faster, fairer and more accessible justice.

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